(c) Question does not arise.

(d) As per EAS Guidelines, the persons who need and seek employment under the scheme get themselves registered in the Village Panchayats. Family cards are issued to those families whose adults are registered for work under the scheme.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) As stated above the scheme is being implemented successfully in Maharashtra. Maharashtra government have further said that they have long experience of Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) which is well established in the state. The state is implementing EAS successfully.

More powers and funds to Panchayats

3953. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to provide more powers and funds to panchayats to ensure all round development of rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Panchayati Raj is a State subject. Article 243G of the Constitution requires the State Governments to enact legislation to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The law so enacted by the State Governments is required also to stipulate devolution of powers and functions with respect to subjects listed in the XI Schedule, Government of India has urged the State Governments to devolve necessary powers and funds upon Panchayats.

In so far as providing funds to Panchayats is concerned, Article 243-I of the Constitution provides for constitution of a State Finance Commission to review the financial position of Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor regarding the principles governing the major issues mentioned in Article 243-H.

State Finance Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted their reports to the respective State Governments. The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of the SFCs. These recommendations are at various stages of implementation. Gujarat, Andman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have received Interim Reports of the SFC on which they have yet to take action. SFCs of Orissa, Goa and Sikkim have yet to submit their reports.

Article 280 of the Constitution vests powers with the President for the constitution of Finance Commissions every fifth year. The duty of the Finance Commissions constituted by the President would be to make recommendations on issues mentioned at (a), (b) (bb), (c) and (d) below Article 280 of the Constitution which inter alia relates to measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats/ Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commissions of the State.

The Tenth Finance Commission made an adhoc provision of Rs. 4381/- crores to the PRIs for the period 1996-2000. Based on these recommendations, the Ministry of Finance has released funds to the States for providing funds to the Panchayats. The Statewise position of funds released to the State Governments is given in the statement. (*see* below).

The Eleventh Finance Commission which would recommend on the devolution of resources for five years commencing from 1st April, 2000, will be dealing with the mandatory subject of making recommendations for the Panchayats based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions.

Statement

Rupees in Crores

States/UT	Releases	
	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	87.75	65.81
Arunachal Pradesh	1.12	0.28
Assam	33.34	8.34
Bihar	126.80	Nil
Goa	1.47	0.37
Gujarat	48.01	12.00
Haryana	20.66	5.17
Himachal Pradesh	8.04	8.05
Jammu and Kashmir	9.39	2.35
Karnataka	55.45	13.86
Kerala	44.71	44.70
Madhya Pradesh	87.17	21.79
Maharashtra	86.76	86.75
Manipur	2.32	0.58
Meghalaya	2.16	0.54
Mizoram	0.73	0.19
Nagaland	1.17	0.29
Orissa	50.24	25.12
Punjab	25.83	6.46
Rajasthan	53.06	39.78
Sikkim	0.47	0.12
Tamil Nadu	71.84	71.83
Tripura	3.49	3.48
Uttar Pradesh	189.88	192.41
West Bengal	83.37	20.84

Safe drinking water in rural areas

3954. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in the country which are yet to be provided with potable water facility;

(b) the average annual coverage of villages for providing safe drinking water;

(c) the names of the States which have shown unsatisfactory performance in rural water supply stating the annual coverage of the villages as against the target; and

(d) the strategy, if any, formulated by Government for speedier implementation of the rural water supply programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the States as on 1.4.98 there were 63408 habitations still to be covered with safe drinking water facilities. On an average around one lakh habitations were covered with drinking water facilities during last two years.

(c) Fifteen States could not achieve the annual target set for them during 1997-98 as indicated in the enclosed statement. *(see below)*

(d) States have to implement the Action Plan prepared by them for coverage of all habitations with drinking water facilities during Ninth Plan period.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Coverage of Habitations 1997-98	
		Target	Covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	3197	2897
2	Arunachal Pradesh	334	318
3	Bihar	16467	11371
4	Goa	36	18
5	Gujarat	1500	1398
6	Haryana	810	650
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1667	500
8	Kerala	1226	530
9	Manipur	576	338
10	Meghalaya	523	482
11	Nagaland	70	24
12	Orissa	8000	7350
13	Punjab	353	268
14	Sikkim	126	121
15	Tripura	2067	442